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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8000

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State of Washington                      58th Legislature                      2003 Regular Session

By Senators Fraser, Morton, Hewitt, Keiser and Hale

Read first time 01/14/2003.            Referred to Committee on Natural Resources, Energy & Water.

1            TO THE HONORABLE GEORGE W. BUSH, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,  
2            AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF  
3            REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
4            UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED, AND TO THE HONORABLE SPENCER  
5            ABRAHAM, SECRETARY OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, AND TO  
6            THE MEMBERS OF THE FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION, CHAIRMAN  
7            PATRICK WOOD, III, COMMISSIONER NORA M. BROWNELL, AND COMMISSIONER  
8            WILLIAM L. MASSEY:

9            We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of  
10           the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully  
11           represent and petition as follows:

12           WHEREAS, The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission proposal  
13           establishing a standard market design (SMD) for electricity proceeds  
14           from the premise that a single market model will work for the entire  
15           nation, as a result it would fundamentally change the way the  
16           transmission system is operated, expand the Commission's authority in  
17           state decisions regarding resource adequacy and demand response, and  
18           dismantle the regional benefits derived from public power; and

19           WHEREAS, Washington state has a comprehensive electricity policy,

1 which encourages efficiency while reflecting our unique resource base;  
2 and

3 WHEREAS, The Northwest electricity system is different from most of  
4 the rest of the nation, including substantial differences in the  
5 transmission ownership, a hydro-based system where the amount of energy  
6 generated is limited by the amount of water in the rivers and behind  
7 the dams, complex legal arrangements for multiple uses of the water to  
8 meet diverse goals (power, irrigation, fisheries, recreation, and  
9 treaty obligations), and a hydro-based system that requires substantial  
10 coordination among plant owners and utilities, rather than the  
11 competitive market-based structure the SMD promotes; and

12 WHEREAS, The Northwest electricity system has produced affordable,  
13 cost-based rates and reliable service for our region; and

14 WHEREAS, Deregulation broke up traditional regulated utilities in  
15 order to create trading markets with the promise of lower costs, more  
16 consumer choice, more reliability, and fewer government bailouts. It  
17 in fact produced higher prices, more manipulation of consumers,  
18 volatility, brownouts, and bailouts running into the tens of billions;  
19 and

20 WHEREAS, We believe the SMD would harm consumers in our region  
21 through increased costs and decreased reliability;

22 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the  
23 Federal Energy Regulatory Commission leave the Northwest electricity  
24 system in place and withdraw the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking  
25 establishing a Standard Market Design (SMD) for electricity.

26 BE IT RESOLVED, That in the event that the Federal Energy  
27 Regulatory Commission does not withdraw its proposal, the President and  
28 Congress take action to prevent the Federal Energy Regulatory  
29 Commission from proceeding with their proposal; and

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately  
31 transmitted to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United  
32 States, the Honorable Spencer Abraham, the Secretary of the United  
33 States Department of Energy, the Members of the Federal Energy  
34 Regulatory Commission, Chairman Patrick Wood, III, Commissioner Nora M.  
35 Brownell, and Commissioner William L. Massey, the President of the  
36 United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and  
37 each member of Congress from the State of Washington.

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